

Emergency Response News



June 2003

IDEM oversees cleanup of crude oil spill impacting a State waterway and wetland in Gibson County

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) investigated and oversaw the cleanup of a crude oil spill impacting approximately 100 acres of wetland and a State waterway in Posey and Gibson counties, near Griffin.

On June 6, an IDEM On Scene Coordinator received a call from a citizen, who noticed crude oil seeping into a wetland in Griffin Bottoms.

On Scene Coordinators found a break in a crude oil transmission line, where approximately 50 barrels of product had spread into a wetland. Staff determined a rupture in a transmission line had impacted an estimated 100 acres at Goose Pond, which is a backwater to the Wabash River. Surface water, soil and tree trunks coated in oil as much as 10 feet high and dead vegetation were discovered.

Staff contacted the owner of the transmission line, who agreed to conduct a cleanup. IDEM oversaw the cleanup, which included using absorbent and containment booms, drum skimmers and vacuums to remove crude oil from the impacted surface waters and constructing an underflow dam.

Agencies assisting IDEM in the cleanup and addressing the environmental impact on wildlife were the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

IDEM will continue to monitor the site until actions are completed to be protective of human health and the environment.



Site Snapshot

IDEM action:

Investigated and oversaw cleanup of a crude oil spill

Location:

Griffin Bottoms in Posey and Gibson counties

Primary substance of concern:

Crude oil

Environmental and health threats:

Impacted State waterway and approximately 100 acres of wetland and potential contamination to ground water.

For further information about IDEM's emergency response action at this site, contact staff at the following phone numbers or toll-free at (888) 672-8323:

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